



Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) was established in 1987 to help ensure that HIV-positive uninsured and underinsured low- and moderate-income individuals have access to pharmaceutical (drug) therapies. The goal of ADAP is to make available, in an effective and timely manner to persons living with HIV, drug treatments that can reliably be expected to increase the duration and quality of life. Currently, 145 drugs are available through ADAP, and there are approximately 3,000 pharmacies statewide where clients can purchase these drugs. Without the drugs available through ADAP, thousands of HIV-positive Californians would face rapidly deteriorating health.

Benefits of ADAP

AIDS drugs (antiretrovirals) delay progression of the disease and help prevent the life-threatening infections that HIV-positive individuals are susceptible to due to their suppressed immune systems. As a result, AIDS drugs enhance the quality of life for many HIV-positive persons, and enable them to remain healthy and to work for as long as possible, thus reducing the cost of publicly-funded health care services.

Program Eligibility

Individuals are eligible for ADAP if they:

- are a resident of California;
- are HIV-infected;
- are 18 years of age or older;
- have an adjusted gross income below \$50,000 per year;
- have a valid prescription from a licensed California physician; and
- lack private insurance that covers the medications or do not qualify for Medi-Cal.

A co-payment is required for anyone whose annual adjusted gross income is between 400 percent of the federal poverty level (currently \$34,360) and \$50,000. Persons with an annual adjusted gross income below 400 percent of the federal poverty level receive ADAP drugs free. ADAP served 23,744 clients in fiscal year (FY) 2000-2001 and filled over 646,000 prescriptions for these clients.

FY 2001-02 Budget

The FY 2001-02 budget continues California's status as the one of largest ADAPs in the country and represents the largest state fund contribution for the support of AIDS drugs.

The budget includes an augmentation of \$12.8 million in General Fund to meet the projected ADAP need during FY 2001-02 due to increased program utilization, demand for combination drug therapy, increased drug prices, and the addition of new drugs to the ADAP formulary.